IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:

a first substrate;

a second substrate disposed confronting with said first substrate;

an outer frame disposed between said first and second substrates and surrounding a space between said first and second substrates;

a sealing member for sealing a connection area between said outer frame and at least one of said first and second substrates, a space defined by said first and second substrates and said outer frame being maintained hermetic; and

a reinforcing member disposed outside the space maintained hermetic and between said first and second substrates, said reinforcing member maintaining a fixed state of a relative position of said first and second substrates,

wherein:

said reinforcing member does not contact an area at which said outer frame and said sealing member contact mutually, and

said reinforcing member consists of an adhesive for adhering said first and second substrates.

2. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member, said outer frame and said sealing member have different thermal expansion coefficients.

3. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:

a first substrate;

a second substrate disposed confronting with said first substrate;

an outer frame disposed between said first and second substrates and surrounding a space between said first and second substrates;

a sealing member for sealing a connection area between said outer frame and at least one of said first and second substrates, a space defined by said first and second substrates and said outer frame being maintained hermetic; and

a reinforcing member disposed outside the space maintained hermetic, and between said first and second substrates, said reinforcing member maintaining a fixed state of a relative position of said first and second substrates,

wherein:

said reinforcing member does not contact an area at which at least one of said first and second substrates contacts said sealing member, and

said reinforcing member consists of an adhesive for adhering said first and second substrates.

4. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 3, wherein said reinforcing member, at least one of said first and second substrates and said sealing member have different thermal expansion coefficients.

5. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member is made of low melting point metal.

6. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member is made of frit.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 1, wherein said reinforcing member is a member expelling a force acting to narrow a gap between said first and second substrates.

9. (Previously Presented) An image display apparatus using the hermetic container according to claim 1, wherein one of said first and second substrates has an electron source and the other has a phosphor member for emitting light upon collision of electrons emitted from said electron source.

10. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:

first and second substrates disposed confronting with each other;

a sealing member disposed in contact with each of said first and second substrates for maintaining hermetic an internal space between said first and second substrates; and

a reinforcing member for coupling said first and second substrates, said reinforcing member being disposed spaced apart from a contact area between said sealing member and each of said first and second substrates,

wherein said reinforcing member consists of an adhesive for adhering said first and second substrates.

11. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 10, wherein said reinforcing member coupling said first and second substrates is disposed outside of said sealing member.

12. (Previously Presented) An image display apparatus having image display means disposed in the hermetic container according to claim 10.

13. (Previously Presented) An image display apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image display means includes an electron source and a phosphor member for emitting light upon collision of electrons emitted from said electron source.

14. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:

first and second substrates disposed confronting with each other;

an outer frame disposed between said first and second substrates;

a sealing member for sealing a space between one of said first and second substrates and said outer frame, said sealing member maintaining hermetic an internal space between said first and second substrates; and

a reinforcing member for coupling said first and second substrates, said reinforcing member being disposed spaced apart from a contact area between said sealing member and one of said first and second substrates,

wherein said reinforcing member consists of an adhesive for adhering said first and second substrates.

15. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 14, wherein said reinforcing member coupling said first and second substrates is disposed outside of said outer frame.

16. (Previously Presented) An image display apparatus having image display means disposed in the hermetic container according to claim 14.

17. (Previously Presented) An image display apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said image display means includes an electron source and a phosphor member for emitting light upon collision of electrons emitted from said electron source.

18. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:

first and second substrates disposed confronting with each other;

an outer frame disposed between said first and second substrates;

a sealing member for sealing a space between one of said first and second substrates and said outer frame, said sealing member maintaining hermetic an internal space between said first and second substrates; and

a reinforcing member for coupling said first and second substrates, said reinforcing member being disposed spaced apart from a contact area between said sealing member and said outer frame,

wherein said reinforcing member consists of an adhesive for adhering said first and second substrates.

19. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 18, wherein said reinforcing member coupling said first and second substrates is disposed outside of said outer frame.

20. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 18, wherein said reinforcing member coupling said first and second substrates is spaced apart from a contact area between said sealing member and the one of said first and second substrates.

21. (Previously Presented) A hermetic container according to claim 20, wherein said reinforcing member coupling said first and second substrates is disposed outside of said outer frame.

22. (Previously Presented) An image display apparatus having image display means disposed in the hermetic container according to claim 18.

23. (Previously Presented) An image display apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said image display means includes an electron source and a phosphor member for emitting light upon collision of electrons emitted from said electron source.